

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T USUN 4916

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, KS, KN

SUBJ: KOREA IN 28TH GA: CHINESE ANXIETY OVER SOVIETS:
MORE DELAY?

REF: USUN 4914

SUMMARY: CHINESE TELEPHONED US AFTER MIDNIGHT TO REPORT SOVIETS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE AGREEMENT. WARNED OF POSSIBLE FURTHER DELAY, AND RAISED QUESTION ABOUT ROK SUPPORTERS INSCRIPTION ON SPEAKERS LIST FOR NOV. 26. WE EXPRESSED DISMAY OVER PROSPECT OF FURTHER DELAY, POINTING OUT THAT THIS THREATENED SERIOUS EROSION ON ROK SIDE OF SUPPORT FOR US-PRC ARRANGEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. CHOU TELEPHONED THAYER 1:15 AM NOV. 20, SAYING HE WISHED RAISE TWO POINTS.

2. FIRST, "ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION," CHOU SAID, "MALIK (USSR) IS TRYING TO UNDERMINE AGREEMENT." CHOU SAID THAT SOVIET THREAT REQUIRES DUTCH AND ALGERIANS AND TWO KOREAN PRINCIPLES TO REACH AGREEMENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE INQUIRED ABOUT EXACT ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISCUSSIONS AGREED UPON EVENING NOV. 19 BY DUTCH AND ALGERIANS. WE EXPLAINED AGAIN THAT MEETING SET FOR
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ALGERIAN MISSION IN MORNING, PROBABLY ABOUT 10 A.M., FOLLOWING AZZOUT'S ARRIVAL. CHOU SAID HE HOPED THEY COULD CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ASAP, "PERHAPS NOT IN FIVE MINUTES TIME," BUT AT LEAST WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DELAY.

WE ASSURED CHOU THAT DUTCH WERE PREPARED TO AGREE IMMEDIATELY, AD REFERENDUM (ACCORDING TO SCENARIO) TO ROK. WE SAID PACE WOULD BE SLOWED ONLY BY ALGERIAN SIDE. IF ALGERIANS PRESENTED THE AGREED UPON TEXT WE FORESAW NO DELAY. IF ALGERIANS INTRODUCED "DIFFICULT" QUESTIONS, THEN THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED OUT. HE HOPE THAT, CONSISTENT WITH TONE OF DUTCH-ALGERIAN TALK PREVIOUS EVENING, BOTH SIDES COULD IMMEDIATELY GET CONCURRENCE OF KOREAN PRINCIPALS AND PLACE CONSENSUS BEFORE FULL COSPONSORS MEETING BEFORE END OF DAY. CHOU RESPONDED THAT THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE WHAT DEVELOPS. CHOU LEFT IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT HE MIGHT TRY BEFORE MEETING TO ARRANGE FURTHER DPRK TALK WITH ALGERIANS.

3. SECOND POINT RELATED TO INSCRIPTION. CHOU SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR SIDE HAD INSCRIBED SPEAKERS FOR DEBATE THROUGH MONDAY, NOV. 26. THAYER SAID WE HAD AND RECALLED FOR CHOU THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH HIM EARLIER AS MEANS TO INSURE WE HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO FINISH ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSENSUS. CHOU ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS CORRECT. HE SAID HE "SINCERLY HOPES THAT EVERYTHING IS SETTLED BEFORE THE 26TH," THAT THE MATTER COULD BE FULLY SETTLED BY NOV. 21. THAYER RESPONDED THAT IT WAS OUR HOPE THAT IF "NEGOTIATIONS" PROCEDED EFFICIENTLY MORNING NOV. 20 WE COULD HAVE AGREEMENT BY COSPONSORS ON BOTH SIDES BY END OF DAY.

4. CHOU DID NOT RULE THIS OUT. HOWEVER, HE THEN RAISED TWO QUESTIONS ABOUT SPEAKERS LIST. IF WE WERE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT RIGHT AWAY, WOULD ROK SIDE BE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW INSCRIPTIONS FOR FOLLOWING MONDAY? WE REMINDED HIM THAT PURPOSE OF INSCRIPTIONS WAS TO PROTECT OURSELVES AGAINST EXTENDED DELAY IN FINAL SETTLEMENT OF CONSENSUS OF AGAINST POSSIBILITY THAT US-PRC EFFORT HAD TO BE ABANDONED, AND WE TOLD HIM THAT SECRET

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IF CONSENSUS FULLY ACCEPTED WITH FULL GUARANTEE FOR ROK AND COSPONSORS WE WOULD HAVE NO WISH UNNECESSARILY TO EXTEND DEBATE. WE WOULD DO BEST IN THAT CASE TO ASK FRIENDS TO TAKE SELVES OFF SPEAKERS LIST AND WE FELT THEY WOULD DO SO.

5. CHOU SAID THAT HE "AFRAID SOMEBODY IS TRYING TO EXPLOIT" FACT OF OUR NOV. 26 INSCRIPTIONS TO UNDERMINE AGREEMENT. IF CONSENSUS NOT WOUND UP BEFORE 26TH, CHOU THEN ASKED, WOULD OUR SIDE BE WILLING TO JOIN IN ASKING CHAIRMAN "TO ADJOURN DEBATE" ON THE 26TH TO GIVE BOTH SIDES (I.E. DPRK SIDE) TIME TO SETTLE CONSENSUS?

6. THAYER TOLD CHOU THAT IF ITS CAME TO THAT POINT WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO CONSULT WITH ROK AND ALLIES. THAYER SAID THAT IN ALL FRANKNESS HE HAD TO POINT OUT AGAIN THAT ROK AND ALLIES ALREADY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT REPEATED DELAY, THAT WE WERE UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM THEM AND WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE WHAT EFFECT WOULD BE IF WE WERE TO LET IT BE KNOWN TO OUR FRIENDS THAT WE WERE FACING PROSPECT OF ANOTHER WEEK'S DELAY WITHOUT SOLID GUARANTEE THAT CONSENSUS WAS GOING TO BE END RESULT. WE WARNED CHOU NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE OUR PROBLEMS OR OVERESTIMATE OUR ABILITY TO HOLD LINE INDEFINITELY WITH ROK AND KEY COSPONSORS. FURTHERMORE, WE ALREADY IN QUITE EMBARRASSING POSITION WITH OTHER COSPONSORS, WHOM WE HAVE PERFORCE BEEN KEEPING IN DARK.

7. IN MUTUAL INTEREST, THEREFORE, THAYER ADDED, WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT WHATEVER PROBLEMS ON CHINESE SIDE THESE CAN BE RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY. FOR OUR PART, WE WOULD EXPEDITE MORNING'S PROCEDURES AS BEST WE COULD, PURSUANT TO CHOU'S SUGGESTION, AND WOULD BE PREPARED, EITHER AS MEMBER OF KEY COSPONSORS GROUP OR INDIVIDUALLY AS MISSION, TO CONSIDER ASSISTING CHINESE EFFORT IN ANY OTHER PRACTICABLE WAY CHINESE MAY SUGGEST. IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT OUR FRIENDS GET NECESSARY GUARANTEE ASAP THAT DEAL WILL STICK. WITHOUT SUCH GUARANTEE, CREDIBLE TO ROK AND ALLIES, WE WOULD BOTH BE IN TROUBLE.

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OUR ALLIES, WE CONCLUDED, COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO LET TIME SLIP AWAY INDEFINITELY WITHOUT TAKING OTHER STEPS TO PRESERVE OWN POSITION.

8. CHOU INDICATED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM. AFTER SEEKING REASSURANCE ON OUR READINESS TO WITHDRAW SPEAKERS NAMES AS NECESSARY AND TO EXPEDITE CONCLUSION OF DEBATE IN OTHER WAYS, CONVERSATION ENDED WITH HOPE ON BOTH SIDES THAT NOV. 20 EVENTS, AFTER ALL, WOULD RESULT IN IMMEDIATE SUCCESS.

9. COMMENT: WHEN AT ONE POINT WE TOLD CHOU THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT EFFECT WOULD BE IF ON TUESDAY WE TOLD ALLIES OF POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL WEEK'S DELAY, CHOU RESPONDED WITH SUGGESTION: "DON'T TELL THEM." WE WOULD PLAN AT LEAST TO AWAIT RESULT OF MORNING'S DUTCH-ALGERIAN TALK, DISCUSS AGAIN WITH CHINESE AND THEN DECIDE ON HOW TO HANDLE ALLIES. BENNETT

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